

Community Support *for* The University

By
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Community Support *for* The University

BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, J. D. STORY, I.S.O.

A Glimpse of University Life and Work . . .

The Senate of the University thinks that the time is ripe to give to the people of Queensland, especially those outside Brisbane, an intimate and realistic glimpse of University life and work; to let them know that the University is in fact the University of Queensland and not merely a Metropolitan Institution; that it is giving the service which it was established to give.

This film should help to show that the University is the coping-stone of the Educational Edifice and is worthy of material support.

That support should be given generously.

A Colossal Assignment . . .

Few people realize what a colossal assignment was given to the University by its founders; possibly no leading University in the British Commonwealth, on its establishment, was allotted a tougher task.

The founders decreed that the University of Queensland was to be of the people for the people; to be accessible to *all* qualified students; to afford equal chances and opportunities to rich and poor alike; to provide for teaching, training, invention and research; to carry on day work, evening work, external work; to arrange for the covering of the whole of the pursuits and professions of life in Queensland; to conduct the Junior and Senior Public Examinations. Truly a colossal assignment; but the assignment is in process of fulfilment.

It can be claimed with conviction that the University of Queensland is **not** of the few for the few, **but of the many for the many.**

Here is Proof of Progressive Fulfilment . . .

By the establishment, as ways and means permitted, of Faculties in—

Arts, Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Commerce, Law, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Medicine, Education, Architecture, and their ancillaries—

arrangements for teaching and training have been provided, progressively, which cover, in a broad way, all Queensland professions and vocations which require men and women at the University level or near-University level.

And all that has been done despite two world wars, depressions, recessions, and those other economic ills which beset the economy of a University as well as that of a Country.

A Community Institution . . .

AND HERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE INSTITUTION
IS OF THE MANY FOR THE MANY:

Since the establishment of the University, students from every part of the State have entered the Institution; positions everywhere are occupied by its graduates; *external* students comprise about one-fourth of University enrolments; over the years, tens of thousands of boys and girls have sat for the Public Examinations conducted by the University.

In truth, the University is of the Community, for the Community, and has given fine Community Service.

Future Expansion . . .

An indication has been given of the work which has been accomplished by the University based upon the foundation assignment, but, naturally, attention is being given to further development and expansion so far as can be discerned.

Faculties are alert in trying to extend the general usefulness of their departments and to shape courses to provide for new trends—cultural and practical. **A University cannot stand still: it can only progress or regress.**

Although an extended programme has not yet been completed, principles which may influence final determinations are:—

- (i) Continued co-operation in the securing of a complete National Co-ordinated System of Education;
- (ii) The orientating of University Education to the needs of the State and of the Community, at the University level;
- (iii) The expanding of existing activities by the introduction of new courses;
- (iv) The creating of distinct sections within existing activities;
- (v) The inauguration of entirely new activities;
- (vi) Expanded Research;
- (vii) Generally, additional facilities for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge.

But expansion may involve increased accommodation, equipment, and staff; in turn, money and more money will be needed.

The doing of new and very desirable things may be accelerated by the extent to which the Community will help.

The University is Co-operative . . .

In past planning and organising there has been a genuine desire on the part of the University to co-operate in an all-round way. The material activities of State, Civic Authorities, and Private Enterprise now cover, in some form or another, land, air, river, sea, underground; social services are varied and wide; Community ownership, control and influence are spreading in many directions.

Since the University Inauguration Year of 1909, industrial undertakings of all kinds have multiplied; commercial activities have spread widely and have intensified; primary production, and the secondary industries connected with it, have increased prodigiously. **The University has tried hard to keep pace.**

The Senate thinks that the time is opportune for the fostering of still closer relationship between the University and the Interests which the Institution is intended to serve. A few illustrations follow.

The University and the Industries . . .

Closer co-operative working between the University and the Industries might be fruitful; links between the lecture-rooms and laboratories of the University and the work-rooms and laboratories of the Industries might invigorate and strengthen; more and more is there need for trained men; the better the training of the men the better the fulfilment of industrial undertakings; the better the product of the factories. But good and adequate equipment is an essential requisite in good training; industrial research is fraught with possibilities. The Industries can assist with gifts of equipment and with funds for industrial research fellowships.

Periodic talks between representatives of the University and groups representing the Industries might be helpful; each side could let the other know what it thinks and what it wants.

The University and Primary Production . . .

Primary Production must now have Agronomists, Analysts, Bacteriologists, Botanists, Chemists, Entomologists, Horticulturists, Pathologists, Toxicologists, Veterinarians, and Specialised Technicians of various kinds. And Primary Production needs research and ever-expanding research. The University is the only Institution in which these specialists can be trained to University standard; it is the only Institution which can produce graduate and post-graduate researchers. The University is therefore essential to Primary Production. Indeed, the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Science have been established for the special purposes of Primary Production.

Primary Production might well “adopt” these two Faculties, take them under its fosterage and endow them bountifully.

The University and the Secondary Schools

The University needs the Secondary Schools; the Professions and Vocations need the Secondary Schools. The University is now equipped to provide the professions and vocations with graduates but, to do so, the University must have a steady flow of qualified students.

Already bonds are strong between University and Schools; there have been happy years of collaboration and co-operation through the Public Examinations; the growing number of Queensland graduates on the Staffs of Secondary Schools has strengthened the friendly spirit of mutual understanding. With the establishment of the full Faculty of Education the University is now even better serviced to supply the Secondary Schools with graduate and post-graduate teachers.

But the Senate is anxious, in community interests, to strengthen still further the links between secondary and tertiary education, seeing the extent to which the two sections must interlock.

This film will give parents and pupils a glimpse of University life and may encourage more students to proceed to a University education; the film may also stimulate interest in the idea of establishing closer relationship between the Agencies of Secondary and of Tertiary Education.

The Costliness of a University . . .

A University is an expensive Institution to maintain; it cannot be otherwise; its very purposes require everything to be of top-level standard. The latter-day expansion of, and intensive development of, the Sciences, Technologies and Social Sciences was inevitable. **The University kept in step.** But the departments concerned with the Sciences and Technologies are much more expensive to equip and to run than the departments concerned with the Humanities; however, the Humanities must not be neglected.

Owing also to the upward trend of costs not only in men but in matter and material, the financial strain has been, and is, very heavy.

But the efficiency and progress of the University must be maintained; financial stability is essential to that end.

Some Illuminating Financial Particulars . . .

Many readers do not revel in figures, but a few are necessary here for a clearer understanding of the financial position.

As for the Academic year 1952—

**The Total Estimated Income from all
sources, except the Governmental, is .. £194,047**

The total Estimated Expenditure is .. £730,967

The Difference is £536,920

Under existing conditions, the Senate was compelled to look to Governmental sources (State and Commonwealth) to provide the amount of £536,920. As the Commonwealth grant is pegged, at present, at £125,043, the State Government, in the Estimates for 1952-53, has provided the sum of £411,877 to enable the Senate to meet its conjectural obligations; that amount is £142,977 more than was required in 1951-52.

Thus the University has now to rely upon the State and Commonwealth Governments for 73.46 per cent. of its income.

Revenue Sources . . .

TAKING THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1952 AGAIN.

The total Income is estimated at £730,967; this Income is expected to be derived from five main sources, namely:—

The State £411,877 = 56.35 per cent.

The Commonwealth .. £125,043 = 17.11 per cent.

Fees £135,660 = 18.56 per cent.

Miscellaneous £38,837 = 5.31 per cent.

Benefactions for General

Purposes .. ' .. £19,550 = 2.67 per cent.

It must be conceded that the amount of Income derived through Benefactions for General Purposes is surprisingly small.

State Grants . . .

Successive State Governments have treated the University with exemplary fairness both in respect of grants for running expenses and in regard to buildings and maintenance. But the State Government, itself, has now entered upon a deficit period and though the will to assist the University may still be there, funds may be limited.

So the time has come for the Community to give to its University more intensified moral and material support than it has given in the past.

The Problem . . .

The problem that now faces the Senate is to find “ new ” money for development and expansion. It is imprudent to rely upon governmental sources entirely; lean times for governments must mean lean times for the University in respect of new money for new things; and, bear in mind that the new things are for the benefit of the people and the children of the people. The University is doing much for the Community; the Community, and particularly the wealthy section of it, **could** and **should** do more for the University.

And note carefully—

That moneys given to the University are exempt from gift duty and are allowable as concessional rebates for taxation purposes in the case of private taxpayers, and as concessional deductions in the case of companies. Bequests attract the same income tax concessions and are also exempt from gift, succession and probate duties.

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